

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



DESCRIPTION OF A NEW WATER MUNGOOSE FROM
EAST AFRICA.

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A collection of mammals made in British East Africa and Uganda in 1910 by Mr. John Jay White includes, among other desirable material, a mongoose of the *paludinosus* group from the Guas Ngishu country, which apparently represents the true *robustus* of Gray, described from the White Nile. Comparison of this specimen with others of the group in the United States National Museum collection makes it plain that the form found on Mount Kilimanjaro is distinct from *robustus*, as it also is from the more southern forms of *paludinosus*. All the water mongooses from British East Africa and the Kilimanjaro region have heretofore been referred to *robustus*.

Mungos paludinosus rubescens subsp. nov.

Type from Mount Kilimanjaro, East Africa, at 4000 feet. Adult ♂, skin and skull. United States National Museum No. 133733. Collected November 8, 1889, by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Characters.—A medium sized form, considerably smaller and lighter colored than *Mungos p. robustus*; size about as in *M. p. rubellus*, but coloration much darker. Skull with comparatively very small andital bulke.

Color of type.—Nose to eyes, clear dark sepia; lips and chin yellowish-buff; cheeks, forehead, crown, and nape, grizzled; neck, body, and base of tail brighter, with no gray, and with more reddish. Underfur sepia, tipped with cinnamon. The long, glossy, overlying hairs of back, black, with or without rings of hazel and bay; overlying glossy hairs of sides and underparts lighter brown, ringed and tipped with cinnamon-rufous. Legs and feet, blackish-brown; tail at base like back, but with long hairs

broadly tipped with bay; gradually blending to the pure black terminal third.

Skull and teeth.—Compared with the skull of the adult male *robustus* the skull of this new form is considerably smaller, with wider rostrum; opening of anterior nares actually larger; auditory bullae very much reduced, little more than one-half the bulk. Compared with a skull of *paludinosus* from West Africa (no skulls of this form from the Cape are available) it is slightly smaller, with smaller teeth, and very much smaller bullae. Teeth as in *robustus*, but relatively larger; m^1 actually larger.

Measurements of type (from dry skin).—Head and body, 610; tail, 330. Skull of type compared with measurements of the skull of the Guas Ngishu specimen of *robustus*, the latter in parentheses: Greatest length, 109.5 (118.6); condylobasal length, 102.5 (108.2); basal length, 94.1 (101); zygomatic breadth, 55.5 (—); postorbital constriction, 15.3 (15.5); upper tooth row, including canine, 37.8 (39.1); upper molar-premolar row, 29 (30.5); length of mandible, 73.2 (75); lower molar-premolar row, 33.1 (35).